

PRESS RELEASE



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Idaho Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Advances to National Competition

(Boise...April 18) Lily Cuoio, a fifth-grade student at Jefferson Elementary School in Pocatello is the Idaho state winner in the 2008 Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Cuoio's entry was selected by a panel of judges from the Idaho Forest Products Commission (IFPC) and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), co-sponsors of the contest. This year students were asked to create a poster reflecting the theme: "Trees are Terrific...Inside and Out!" Teachers used accompanying materials to educate students about the theme and the importance of planting and caring for trees.

Fifth-grade students from across Idaho participated in the contest this year. As the state winner, Lily Cuoio will receive a \$200 US Savings Bond. A tree will be planted in her honor at the Capitol during the State Arbor Day celebration on April 25th and a stone marker noting her achievement will be set at its base. Cuoio's award-winning artwork will be printed as a poster and used to promote Arbor Day in 2009. Additionally, her teacher Ms. Krista Campos will receive \$100 in cash for classroom supplies. Prize money and poster reproduction is sponsored by revenues from Idaho Forestry License Plates, which support reforestation efforts and educational projects such as the poster contest.

As Idaho's state winner, Cuoio is now entered in the national contest which is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota Motor Corporation.

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“We’re glad to be a sponsor of this project. The Arbor Day Poster Contest is a great opportunity for students to learn about Idaho’s forests and all the things they provide,” said Betty Munis, Director of the Idaho Forest Products Commission. “These posters are a refreshing view of forests through the eyes of a 5th grader.” George Bacon, Idaho State Forester and Director of the IDL noted, “It is wonderful that students, like Lily Cuoio, are gaining an appreciation and understanding of how trees grow and function. With their art, they remind us of the many ways trees benefit our communities and encourage us to care for our forests now and into the future.”

In addition to Cuoio, Cynthia Martinez, from Ashton Elementary was selected as second place state winner and Madie King, from Mullan Trail Elementary in Post Falls, took third. Martinez will receive a \$150 bond and King will receive a \$100 bond. Their teachers will also receive \$100 for classroom supplies. Additionally, Isaac Selzer from Ponderosa Elementary in Post Falls received an Honorable Mention.

Pictures of the winning posters can be viewed at www.idl.idaho.gov (click on community forestry, then Arbor Day at the top of the page). Copies of the poster will be available through the Idaho Forest Products Commission later this year. You can also learn more about Arbor Day and Idaho forests at www.idahoforests.org.

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